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The Daily Press.

HONG-KONG, April 6th, 1900.

We publish to-day a telegram which announces that a murderous attack has been made on H. R. H. the Prince of Wales as he was in the train at Brussels station. The Prince is on his way to Denmark, which he is about to visit, before going on to the Paris Exhibition. Full details are not yet to hand, but the would-be assassin seems fortunately to have been shot, or else he was unable to get sufficiently close to make sure of his hit. At any rate, H. R. H. was not touched, and we have no news to show that any one was injured. The "missouri" as our telegram rightly calls him, was captured without delay and is doubtless now in safe keeping. All may be said, therefore, to have passed off as well as such an affair can pass off. A terrible crime has been avoided, and the only result will be an accession of popularity to the intended victim. What the alternative would have been, had the attempt succeeded, we do not like to contemplate. As it is, Her Majesty now in Dublin cannot but receive a great shock in the midst of the general rejoicing which her visit to a country that has seen so little of her has inspired. She will be comforted by the renewed expressions of loyalty which will pour in from every land. Such attempts in the past (and the present reign has had its full share of them) have always ended in a closer bond of sympathy between sovereign and people. It may safely be asserted that the present affair will signally prove the affection of the Empire for its head. The most unfortunate circumstance, perhaps, is that the man who selected Brussels for the scene of his fanatical bid for notoriety, since the hasty in judgement, knowing that this city is the headquarters of the Transvaal agent, Dr. Lurze, will be inclined to attribute to a wrong cause the origin of the attempted crime, regardless of the fact that the Boers are abiding heart and soul to win or, should we say rather, retain the sympathies of Europe, and that such an occurrence, if traced to them, would be the death-blow of their hope. But no

man of sense will be led away by such ideas. Until full details are forthcoming, let us look on the affair as but one of those serious incidents which have cropped up from time to time throughout history, and though sometimes ending in terrible tragedies have much more usually resulted for otherwise than the irresponsible mind of the intended murderer imagined.

The first Gynchana meeting of the 30th will be held at the Raco, Connaught Rd., 9th floor. It is to be hoped that the present gynchana weather will finish before the meeting takes place.

MANY of our readers will remember the fatal landslide that occurred in January, 1894, on Cain Road, immediately below the Seymour Road and above the number two tank. That landslide, which the inquiry proved, might have been averted by the exercise of a little foresight, resulted in the deaths of eight workmen. At the same inquiry the executive engineer of the Public Works Department deposed that, the full was partly due to bad weather and to excessive work for the month on the 23rd, but only left his meetings for her monthly firing. On the 30th, after her commander had paid a visit to the Undulated, she returned to Shanghai.

The Korean Governor is said to have requested the Japanese not to issue a number of post-offices. Consequently, probably, the Japanese cut our readers remember that the post-office service of Corea is under Japanese management. Corea, apparently, does not make progress under such circumstances.

A Japanese paper says the Japanese demand for a mining concession in Corea lodged with the Government of last country is not yet making definite progress in the hands of the British demand in connection with the Inman gold mine. The applicants propose to take "future such work as this might be carried on under the supervision of the Public Works Department, if practicable." We recall this tragedy because, unless a benign Providence intercedes, and that right especially, it may be repeated on exactly the same spot, with probably still more disastrous results. The officials of the Public Works Department are a busy body; and it is conceivable that their time may be fully occupied in more responsible and higher technical employment than seeking for tottering walls. After a lapse of years the unprofessional opinion of a coroner's jury may naturally be forgotten in the oblivion of the departmental pigeon-hole. And it may be also argued that if such a wall appears perpendicular in the plans of the Chinese contractor the duty of the Public Works Department is fulfilled if that wall will be premonitory when completed. Such officials cannot be expected to measure roughly the amount of earth the wall has to support, the depth of its foundations (if any), or its erection in the wet season when the cement cannot set. Those trivialities, at an inquest, for instance, might be briefly relegated to the sphere of some one else's responsibility, the contractor's or the earth-cooker's. But the verdict at the last Inquiry—it is perhaps unkind to suggest this is the possibility of another—was inferentially to the effect that the Public Works Department, if not otherwise precluded, might keep an eye on the successor to this disastrous wall, so that no more lives might be lost if it should be pleased to fall.

Recently, in consequence of building operations of some description, two stone walls on the same fatal spot, each as are erected to support a very heavy embankment. They are quite now, as the mortar is scarcely set, and the weight of earth and the recent heavy rains has cracked the side of one right across, and caused the other to bulge threateningly over the public roadway. It needs not a professional eye to detect that the two heavy structures occupy a position somewhat analogous to the mythical tomb of Marathon suspended in mid-air, and we shall not be surprised if the next shower of rain does not bring them to the ground, it may be on the top of an unfortunate pedestrian. In this case, though built by a Chinese contractor, the walls are "dangerous to the public" and we are surprised that they have escaped the keen official eye, which in other matters relating to building construction is remarkably infallible. True, there is a workshop of the Water Authority immediately below the side of the road opposite to the wall, but as they cannot see through the road their "vision" is like Sam Weller's, "is limited." There is a Police-station a few yards off, but the police duty of inspection would only commence at a possible inquest. It is presumably someone's responsibility to see to this. The Navy Department has communicated with the commanders of the foreign squadrons, requesting the observance of the zone set apart for the territorial munition.

The Tokyo Correspondent of the Nagasaki Press announces that the Japanese naval maneuvers commenced on the 20th inst. under the superintendence of Admiral Ito. With the exception of two or three men-of-war, each as are stationed in Korea and China or are cruising in foreign waters, all the vessels in commission and the reserve ships are participating in the manœuvres. The vessels will be put through every phase of tactics connected with blockade, bombardment, torpedo practice, combined battleship and cruiser work, &c. The purpose of the manœuvres is to test the efficiency of the new naval organization and to afford opportunity to the various commanders to put into practice many new ideas acquired by them during the Spanish-American war. Viewed in this light, the present manœuvres have no political significance. Great secrecy will be observed by the naval authorities to guard against valuable items of information falling into the hands of the press, in other words, if the reported results are unsatisfactory, to cover defects which may reflect on the Navy. It is understood that the Navy Department has communicated with the commanders of the foreign squadrons, requesting the observance of the zone set apart for the territorial munition.

The Exodus still continues. The Express of China and the King Albert, which left on Tuesday, carried away as many of the leading lights of the colony as it could. But the King Albert, though a large cargo of "gold-trout," several of our fellow colonists to America and Europe. The few who have not yet gone, or will have to remain throughout the summer, if any such there be, may well envy those who have got out of the unbearable weather we are now suffering from. Some of them have been made to do so, but as they did not voice their own feelings as regards whether to remain or not.

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TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

THE WAR.

LONDON, 4th April, 10.20 a.m.

HEROISM, BUT NO GUNS.

A despatch which has just arrived tells of the magnificent heroism of the British forces entrapped in the ambush. The story of the reception of our guns, however, remains unconfirmed.

OFF TO ST. HELENA.

General Cronje, Colonel Shish, and a thousand prisoners have sailed for St. Helena.

CAPE DECLARATES ANNEXATION
NECESSARY.

Numerous mass meetings at the Cape have affirmed the necessity of annexing the two Republics.

LONDON, 4th April, 10.55 p.m.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE
PRINCE OF WALES.

An attempt was made to assassinate R.H.R., the Prince of Wales while he was in the train in Brussels Station. Two shots were fired at him, but fortunately the Prince was unhurt. The assailant was arrested immediately.

DUBLIN RECEIVES HER MAJESTY.

Her Majesty the Queen met with a splendid reception in Dublin.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

LONDON, 3rd April.

ESCAPE OF TWO BRITISH OFFICERS
FROM PRETORIA.

Capt. Haldane of the Gordon's and Lt. Le Mesurier have escaped from Pretoria and arrived at Lourenco Marques.

THE RECENT REVERSE.

Reuter's correspondent at Bloemfontein says that the scene of the ambush was a terrible sight; the sprouts were filled with the corpses of horses and broken wagons in hideous confusion. It was only General Broadwood's presence of mind and skillful handling that prevented the destruction of the entire force.

MORE TROOPS FOR RHODESIA.

The Transvaal Chicago is leaving Capetown for Beira with a portion of the "Business" Corps, horses, mules, and pack for the Rhodesia railway. A large stock of supplies and provisions are also going to Beira.

LATER.

BOMBS STILL AT THE WATERWORKS.

Reuter's correspondent at Bloemfontein, under date 2nd inst., says that the enemy still occupy the waterworks and that the Boers who were besieged yesterday returned the fire. It is reported that some of the Boers are moving to the South.

LORD ROBERTS PRAISES THE
ENTRAPPED TROOPS.

A despatch from Lord Roberts praises the gallantry of the 9th Battery in the ambush, in which many of the officers served as gunners and valiantly repulsed the attack of the Boers.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, when being present.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL GASCONE.

His Excellency Major-General Gascogne, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. G. Goodman (Attorney-General).

Mr. A. M. Thomas (Colonial Treasurer).

Mr. R. D. Obsey (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. Brunin.

Hon. G. C. Nicoll.

Hon. G. P. Chaton, C.M.G.

Hon. D. Ho Kit.

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Hon. E. H. Bellairs, C.M.G.

Hon. W

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HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1900.

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